



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PLEASANT HILL MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO SOCIAL SECURITY FRAUD

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced a Pleasant Hill, Mo., man pleaded guilty in federal court today to defrauding the Social Security Administration.

Mark Deperalta, 42, of Pleasant Hill, Mo., pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Howard F. Sachs this morning to Social Security fraud.

By pleading guilty, **Deperalta** admitted that he was fraudulently receiving payments under the provision of the Social Security Administration Act dealing with Disability Insurance Benefits Payments from February 1997 and May 1999.

Deperalta also admitted that he concealed the fact that he was not eligible for the payments while he was employed at R and D Tools, located in Lee's Summit, Mo. His employment with the company would make him ineligible to receive the benefits, Graves explained.

Deperalta was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Dec. 17, 2003, in Kansas City.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney D. Michael Green. It was investigated by the Social Security Administration's Office of Inspector General.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

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